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A Home Designed Around the Sun
15

Photo: Heather Fritz

Cover: You and the heart of your home don't have to end up in relationship counseling. Curtis Elmy from Atmosphere Interior Design offers his top ten tips on page 25. Photo: D&M Images

HOME Front

Hat from Saskatoon's own
Sova Design Millinery.



Photo of Amanda Soulodre by Appl Photo

Spring is on its way! Based on what Willie the groundhog predicted, it should be here sooner rather than later. Now for my prediction—you are going to love this spring issue full of our Reader Panel's story selections that we've been nurturing over the last number of months.

In this season of renewal and new life, we salute the Colour of the Year (pg. 8). The 2016 blended choice is a fresh combo, but don't be fooled by these beautiful baby hues; they carry big design industry clout.

Speaking of design, we love Saskatoon's own dynamic duo Curtis Elmy and Trevor Ciona, principal designers and owners of Atmosphere Interior Design. If you're building a new kitchen or renovating one that just doesn't work for you, let Curtis lead you through ten top considerations for making the heart of your home a real heart stopper (pg. 25).

We've got a lot of family-focused pieces and news you need: how to grow vines (pg. 52), get personal with alien babies (don't worry, it's just kombucha) (pg. 56), learn about co-housing (pg. 41), and understand why we should embrace a little imperfection in our lives through wabi-sabi, an aesthetic rooted in Zen Buddhism, albeit in a wobbly handmade pot (pg. 46).

Saskatoon's sunshine, abundant light, and spectacular river valley

views enticed architect Darrel Epp and psychologist Lynne Wawryk-Epp to design a unique home on Saskatchewan Crescent. Expansive floor to ceiling windows gives them front row seats to the daily drama unfolding in the river valley. And wait until you see what happens when they invite the light inside to play (pg. 15).

With a DIY outdoor fireplace, a Forest Grove family creates an inviting family space that friends love to frequent, too. Seriously, "No s'mores for me. I don't like them," said no one ever (pg. 66).

What started as a tree nursery in 1914, the Forestry Farm and Zoo is one of our most popular attractions year around. Jeff O'Brien shares the unique evolution of this important historical Saskatoon destination (pg. 60).

That, and more, in your spring issue of Saskatoon HOME. Wait, what's that noise? Oh, it's the sound of almost no more snow shoveling!


Happy reading!

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HOME

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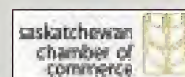
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READER PANEL

Thank you to our Spring Issue Reader Panel seen below! The people on the Reader Panel change every issue and are made up of fans of the magazine who volunteer to help us select the stories written in each issue. Their input allows us to really delve into our readership and make sure we are selecting stories that people in and around Saskatoon look forward to reading each and every issue.



“My favorite place to read HOME is in my sunny living room in my comfy chair!

Carol Affleck

*Artist Services / Youth Tour Coordinator,
Persephone Theatre*



“The next room I am looking forward to redecorating in my home is my bedroom. I want to reorganize my closet and change out the doors for fancy sliders.

Carrie Mulligan

*Pinnacle Wealth Brokers and
PowerHouse Women & Wealth*



“My favorite thing about HOME is reading about local projects and stories that happen right here in Saskatoon.

Emily Birchfield

*Interior Design Technologist,
Kitchen Designs by Delta*



“I read HOME because I am interested in reading about trends and new ideas in home decor/building.

Ken Howland

Retired



“My favorite story from a past issue is the tour of the duplex on Saskatchewan Crescent (Fall 2015). Such an interesting home.

Matt Tumbach

*Teacher,
Saskatoon Public School Division*



“I love reading HOME because each issue provides a diversity of stories that touch on Saskatoon's past, present and future—and the reader panel has helped make that happen!

Shannon Dyck

*Director,
Radiance Cohousing*

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Color of
the Year
2016

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Rose
Quartz
13-1520

Serenity
15-3919

 KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

ROSE QUARTZ & SERENITY 2016 COLORS OF THE YEAR

Not Just Any Old Pink and Blue

Photo: Courtesy of PANTONE

It's been a very long time since pink was just for little girls and blue just for little boys. In fact, these two complementary hues have now surpassed old gender stereotypes to become the first blended choice for Pantone's 2016 Color of the Year. They have a new robust

reputation to live up to since Pantone describes them as "a harmonious pairing of inviting shades that embody a mindset of tranquility and inner peace." Pantone is considered the "global color authority" which provides professional color standards for various design industries.

"We start to search for the most meaningful color that truly represents a given time and thought context—what is it that people are seeking that color can help to fulfill," says Leatrice (Lee) Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. Lee shared her insights about the color

choices with Saskatoon HOME from her office on Bainbridge Island near Seattle.

"The choice for 2016 was based on a need to 'lighten up,' to offer some possible escape from the complexities of everyday life," she says. "This was the first time that two colors were chosen in



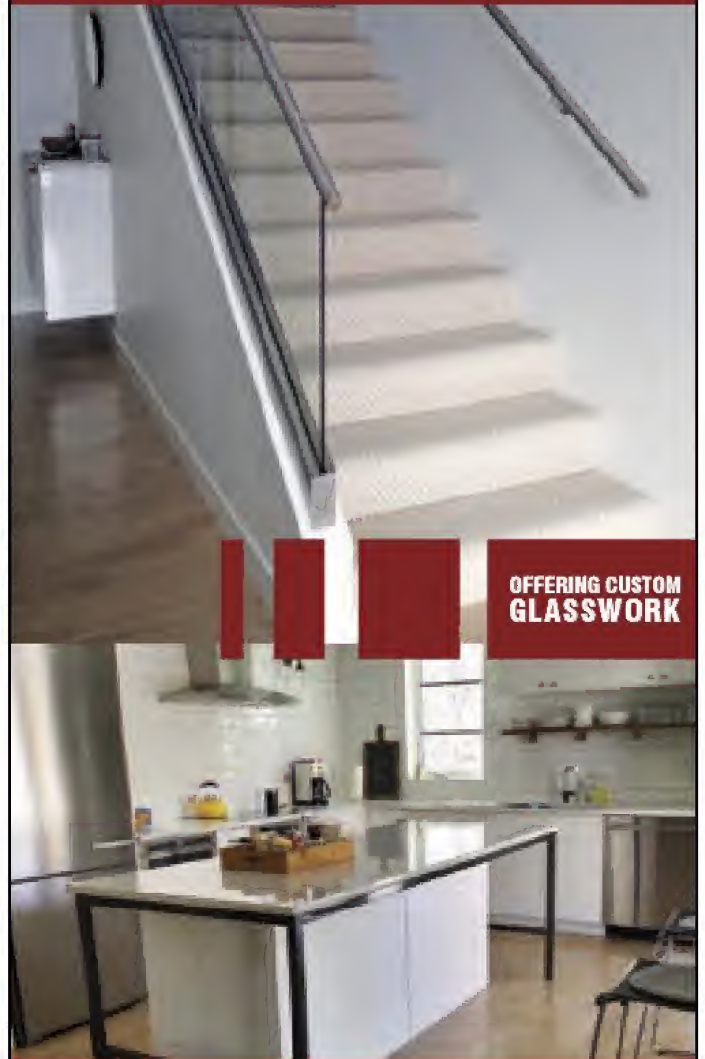
Photo: Courtesy of Kung Katherine Spang 2016

tandem, as we felt that these two hues offered a sense of balance and serenity."

Choosing the Color of the Year isn't just a matter of pulling favourite crayons out of a box, Lee has told Saskatoon HOME in the past. The Institute conducts extensive trend analysis and examines

a multitude of global factors. Pantone's color experts "comb the world looking for new color influences" and for 16 years their Color of the Year selection has had a significant impact on product development across multiple industries, including fashion, home furnishings and industrial design, product ➤

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Within these industries, watchwords for this year's color duo include calm, relaxing, warm, tranquil and playful yet sophisticated according to the Pantone Fashion Color Report Spring 2016. The selection reflects an inherent balance between the two hues, according to the report's authors. It speaks to

a greater comfort with self-expression through color and suggests that consumers are less concerned about being judged or typecast by color choices.

"In many parts of the world," notes Lee, "we are experiencing a gender blur as it relates to fashion, which has in turn impacted color trends throughout all other

areas of design. This more unilateral approach to color is coinciding with societal movements toward gender equality and fluidity."

Offsetting the warm healthy glow of Rose Quartz, Serenity adds a cool tone and refreshing tranquil statement. For the beauty industry, both shades work well with any skin tone. According to Lee, the 2016

Colors of the Year are also ideal for home design.

"Like a serene sunset, Rose Quartz encourages reflection on one's surroundings while Serenity, a transcendent blue, provides a naturally connected sense of space." She followed up on Pantone's description for use of these colors in the home environment, noting that either one or a combina- ➤



Photo: Courtesy of Keurig

PAST COLORS OF THE YEAR

2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
PANTONE® 18-1438 Marsala	PANTONE® 18-3224 Radiant Orchid	PANTONE® 17-5641 Emerald	PANTONE® 17-1463 Tangerine Tango	PANTONE® 18-2120 Honeysuckle	PANTONE® 15-5519 Turquoise

tion of the two is ideal for rugs and upholstery, but also for paint and accessories.

"Coupling solid and patterned fabrics, throws, pillows and bedding in these shades provides a comforting respite and feeling of well-being in the home," she adds. "Incorporating texture enhances the duality and kinship of these hues."

(For more information about Lee and the Color Institute, visit: www.colorexpert.com.)



Karin Melberg Schwier



Photo: Courtesy of PANTONE

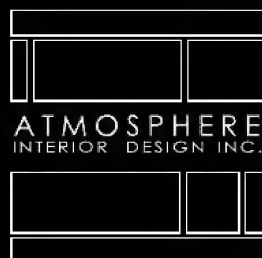


Photo: Courtesy of West Elm

ROSE QUARTZ & SERENITY COLOR PAIRINGS

Whether in soft or hard surface material, the pairing of Rose Quartz and Serenity brings calm and relaxation. Appealing in all finishes, matte, metallic and glossy, the engaging combo joins easily with other mid-tones including greens and purples, rich browns, and all shades of yellow and pink. Add in silver or hot brights for more splash and sparkle.

PANTONE® 14-0000 Silver Gray	PANTONE® 15-3919 Serenity	PANTONE® 13-1520 Rose Quartz	PANTONE® 14-0216 Lint	PANTONE® 16-2107 Orchid Haze	PANTONE® 19-1718 Fig	PANTONE® 19-0309 Thyme	PANTONE® 18-3908 Volcanic Glass
PANTONE® 13-1520 Rose Quartz	PANTONE® 15-3919 Serenity	PANTONE® 17-0613 Vetiver	PANTONE® 17-1512 Nostalgia Rose	PANTONE® 13-0739 Cream Gold	PANTONE® 15-1120 Starfish	PANTONE® 19-0810 Major Brown	
PANTONE® 15-3919 Serenity	PANTONE® 13-1520 Rose Quartz	PANTONE® 15-1520 Blooming Dahlia	PANTONE® 18-112 Walnut	PANTONE® 17-4911 Arctic	PANTONE® 15-3601 Opal Gray	PANTONE® 16-1012 Frosted Almond	



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KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER



HEATHER FRITZ

A HOME DESIGNED AROUND THE SUN

With a Stairway to Heaven

The visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum is as much a design tool for architect Darrel Epp as is glass, concrete and steel. By creatively capturing natural light along with thoughtful applications of the artificial variety, he has created—a nod to Ernest Hemingway—a clean,

well-lighted place overlooking the city centre and river valley. He has made the utmost of a narrow lot in one of the city's most coveted areas.

The eye-catching duplex on Saskatchewan Crescent perches just above the Broadway Bridge adjacent to a modern house with a round front that Darrel

also designed. When those clients feared a view-destroying infill, they—along with Darrel and his wife Lynne Wawryk-Epp, a psychologist—bought the 50-foot lot next door. Darrel saw an investment opportunity and a duplex possibility; Lynne saw a new living space potential that raised the design

stakes. Darrel's experience next door guided his design decisions for the new home.

Considerable sacrifice went into the design and construction of Darrel and Lynne's dream home on Colony Street across from forested President Murray Park. That made it difficult to leave. ➤



The second storey lounge area was destined to be the bedroom. But an enlightened son-in-law asked, "Do you want to take people through your bedroom to see the best view?" The bedroom went to the back.

"I felt like I was having an affair on the house," Darrel laughs. "I'd be in bed on Colony Street, but dreaming about the other house." In the end, sunsets and expansive views won out.

Jaw-Dropping Vista

Darrel designed the new house with vertical presence, a 'reach for the sky' configuration to maximize a 25-foot wide lot in a high-density neighbourhood. Rather than the conjoined back end that many builders use to meet code for a duplex in this area, the solid demising wall between 612 and 614 allowed for more floor area and used land that would remain empty if the two buildings were partially joined. Massive floor to ceiling glazing without horizontal mullions provide an unobstructed 180-degree view of the river and city centre. The front ➤

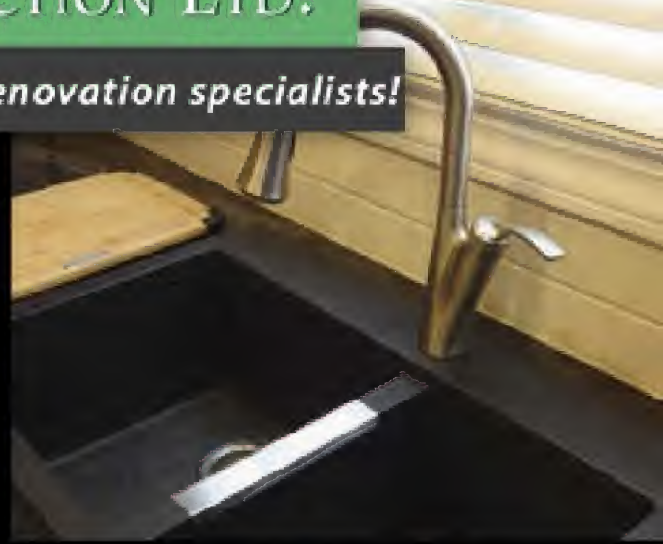


A rooftop deck provides access to the air conditioning mechanical system, but also offers a seating area with a spectacular view and a perfect vantage for watching the aurora, moon and stars.

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In the larger bedroom, the twinkling LED mini lights behind a sculpted felt ceiling panel by artist June Jacobs make it all about dreams.

The detached garage allows for an open centre courtyard that feeds natural light into the living room. Powered slated shades on the exterior can be lowered to partially or fully block the sun, or to create beautiful light and shadow effects on the walls and ceiling.



facade was angled to respect the neighbours' sight lines to the river.

"The house I designed for the neighbours has a lot of windows on the curved part to take advantage of the view," Darrel explains. "The advancement in window technology has allowed for larger

windows with proportionally less heat loss than older windows. A triple glazed R8 window is not an R20 wall, but it is still a huge improvement, especially in comfort. It is the large windows that define the house." From April to September, Darrel and Lynne enjoy amazing full-blown direct

sunsets. "You can't get tired of that," Darrel says. Lynne agrees. "The opportunity to see the horizon every evening from our home is relaxing."

Interior Light and Shadow

With a compact European sensibility, Darrel's design grew out of the space restrictions of

the narrow lot. The vertical use of space has allowed offices for two people with a separate entrance, 2,400 square feet of living area on two floors, a roof deck, a detached double garage and a courtyard, all on a 25-foot lot. All of this space came with the challenge to pull light into a long, narrow ➤

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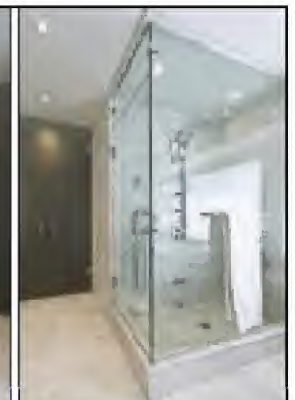
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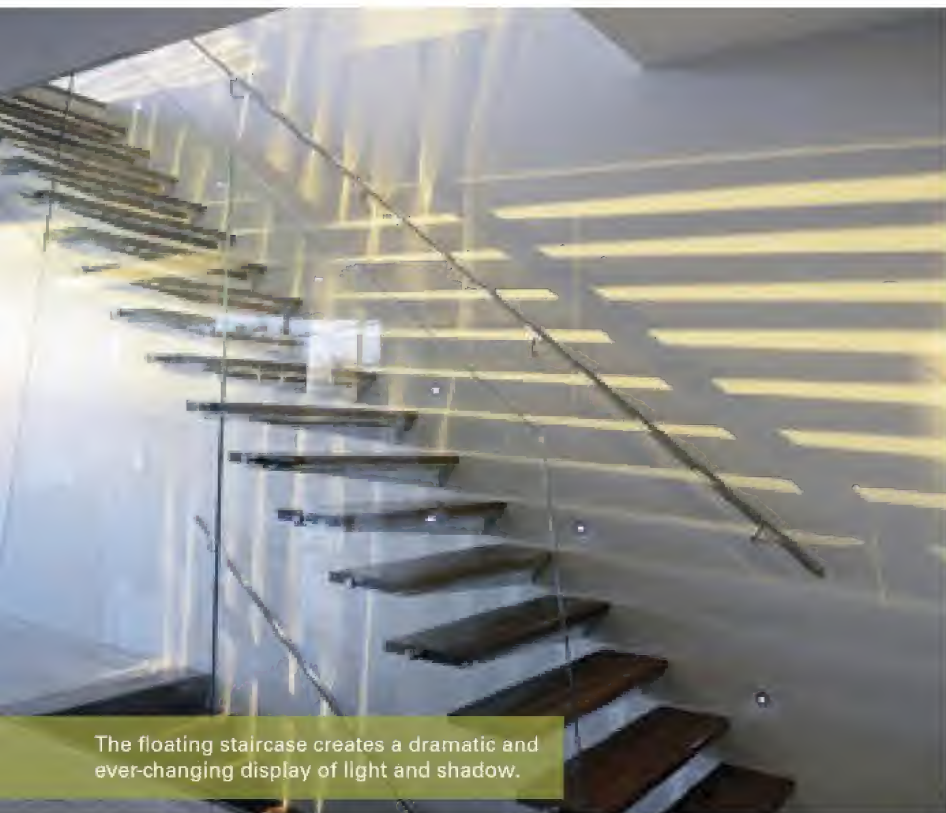
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The floating staircase creates a dramatic and ever-changing display of light and shadow.



Photos: Darrel Epp


structure where fire codes won't allow side windows closer than four feet from the property line.

"We angled the side of the house to draw more light to the centre and add more space along the property line," Darrel explains. With a sawtooth side wall, the jogs provide enough space

for windows at strategic points. "We tried to capture as much space, view, and light as possible without building tight to all the setback lines. By detaching the garage, light is allowed into the rear of the building and into the interior courtyard. The lookout on the third floor acts as a giant light lantern and moon window."

Functional items like doors, stair treads, guards and cabinetry are sculpted to play with direct light. The interior doors are shaped into a nine-foot wave to prevent warpage and to read as a solid coloured object. The sides and top of the kitchen island are of the same material, which translates into a carved object.



"With direct light comes dark dramatic shadows," Darrel says. "We get unique shadows from the shutter slats and stair treads under full light." Full height fabric curtains on the main floor transfer intense direct light to a soft feminine glow; the curtains also provide instant privacy.



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It's all about volumes of space and creating unbroken sightlines. Even the kitchen island appears to flow through the room.

Electric Light Orchestra

In response to the dark days of winter the couple settled on a complex electrical lighting system that promotes health and comfort, and provides the right light for various tasks at different times of day. Low lux levels, task lighting, limited direct lighting and full spectrum LED light all have specific purposes.

Two light colour temperatures are used in the house; the theory is a cool one promotes serotonin to boost wakefulness and productivity during the day, and a warmer one promotes melatonin for relaxation and sleep at night.

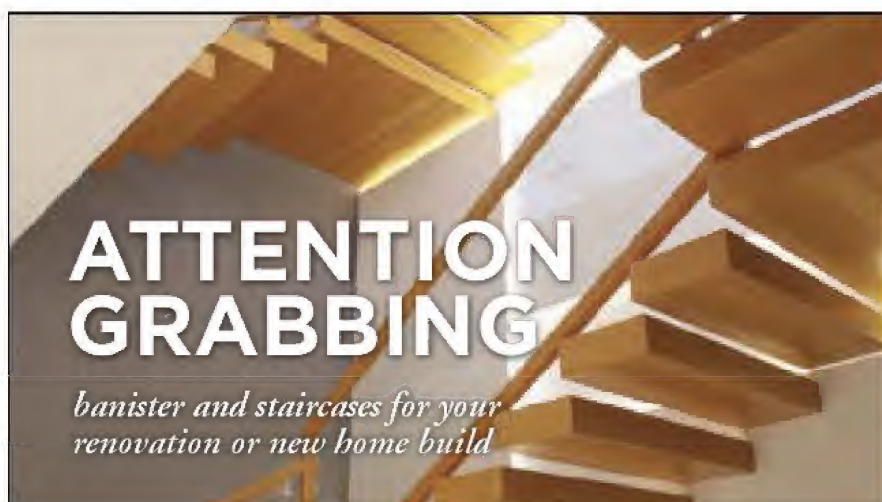

"Convention was to make everything the same temperature colour, but we knew we

needed specific lights for various tasks and activities," says Lynne. "For example, in the kitchen the 5000k overhead lights work with a morning cappuccino while the under counter 2700k lights set the mood for an evening glass of wine"

Stairway to Heaven


Some design features are

serendipitous. Darrel noticed how the light shone through the construction stairs during a summer sunset. It was an immediate decision to build on that phenomenon. Open treads create long shadows on one half of the demising wall while the mirrored surfaces under each tread reflect light back onto the other half. ➤

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A minimal glass guard without a handrail allows both view and light. The mirrored stainless steel under the stair treads reflects direct evening sunlight onto the wall. The interior light show is an extension of the sunsets.



The courtyard connects the garage both visually and physically with tentative cables capable of supporting lighting and a mosquito net. The courtyard can be extended into the garage through a nine-foot wide opening created by the triple garage doors. With the open main floor plan, the courtyard and the garage, there is 2,500 square feet of barrier-free summer entertainment area.

The light show is at its best during the winter and summer solstices.

"According to my daughter, we now have a new season called stair season," Darrel says.


A series of styrofoam and cardboard models with different shaped treads and hours of watching the light helped him decide on what would appear to be a floating staircase with a changing light display. So intent was Darrel on producing the most dramatic tread shadows that the thickness of each wood tread was reduced an extra quarter inch.

"The decision about the stairwell guards was agonizing," recalls Lynne. "Any solid element would block light, and there were some glass ideas that were impractical. I did not want the feeling of coming down a glass chute.

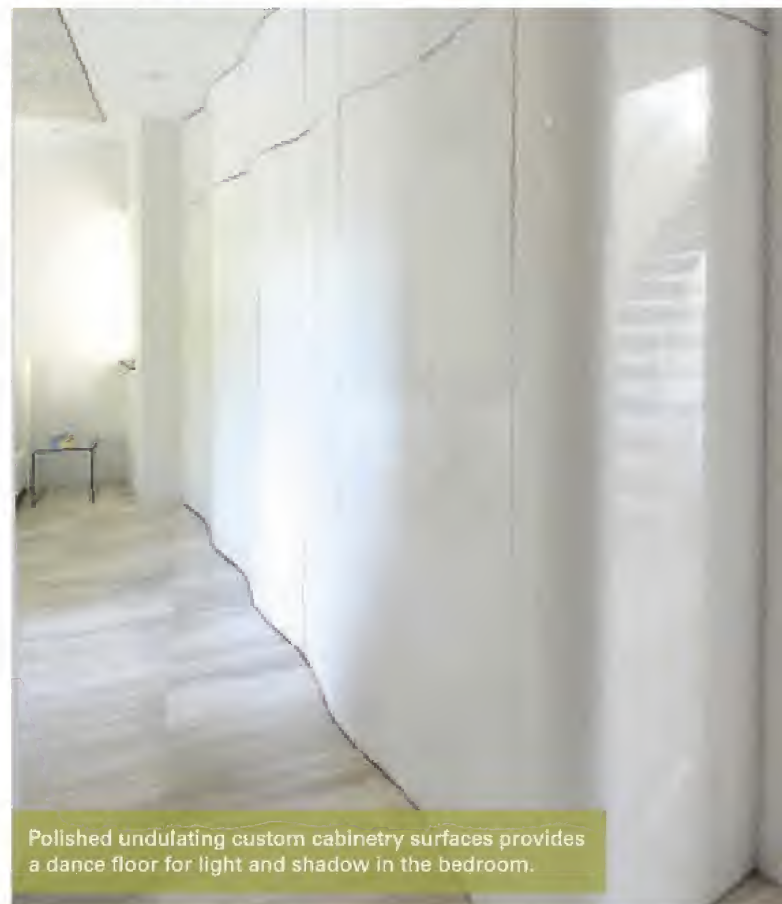
Obviously you need a guard, but how do you minimize the look?" After many prototypes with wires and straps, the end resulting glass panels seem to simply disappear.

Introspection

After a year in the home, Darrel and Lynne are still dazzled by the changing light and views.

"There is a visual surprise in each season," says Darrel. "We are constantly taking photos of how the light bounces around the house. It is really what keeps us here." 

Karin Melberg Schwier



Polished undulating custom cabinetry surfaces provides a dance floor for light and shadow in the bedroom.



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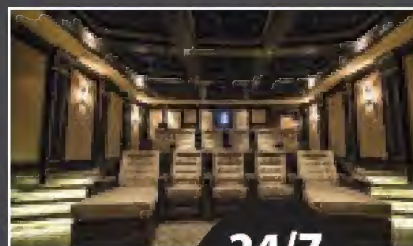
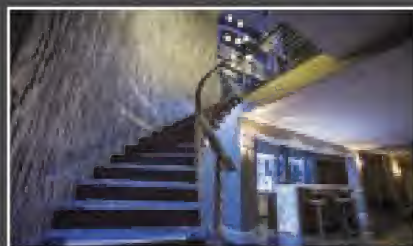
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 **KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER**
 **KITCHEN DESIGNS BY ATMOSPHERE INTERIOR DESIGN**

PLANNING YOUR 'PERFECTLY YOU' DREAM KITCHEN

Photo: D&M Images

If you embrace the 'kitchen is the heart of the home' metaphor, you'll know it can be fickle. As you yearn for a renovated kitchen space—or build a new dream—choices can be many, complex and overwhelming.

Flooring, lighting, countertops, plumbing; it's all here. Marrying your wish list with

necessary functionality and topping it off with spectacular design makes work and play a wonderful relationship. A well-designed kitchen wraps its arms around the entire living space, elevates ordinary to something special and tames one of the most intimidating rooms in your home.

Curtis Elmy and Trevor Ciona are the principal designers and owners of Atmosphere Interior Design in Saskatoon, with work recognized all over North America and design projects completed across Canada. Curtis offers sage relationship counseling that will connect you with your soul

mate kitchen without any cold feet or insomniac regrets.

1. Research **— Without It, Do Not Pass Go**

What drives your activities in the kitchen? Are you a gourmet? Do you never cook? Are you big on entertaining? A generous budget helps ➤



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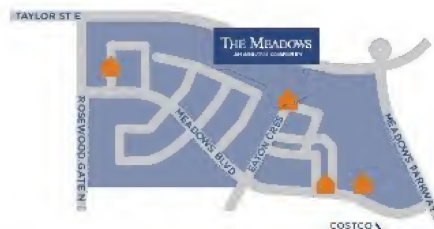
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Atmosphere Interior Design principal designers/owners Curtis Elmy, left, and Trevor Clona.



Photo: D&M Images

with decisions. But you can have a less expensive kitchen that looks and functions far better than an expensive one because you figured out who you are and planned well.

Gather pictures, take measurements and tag things you like. Lay everything out on the kitchen table. Leave it overnight and give yourself some time to percolate.

After a busy day in your kitchen, sit down and make a list of what you hate about it. Be specific. If nothing really drives you crazy, maybe you could do with an inexpensive freshen up. "I think people look ahead to what they want in a dream kitchen without investing enough time to figure out what doesn't work in what they have."

2. Appliances

– Know What You'll Use, Don't Fall for Fads

Even the best-rated appliances might not be right for you. Ask questions; if you're not entirely sure about the sink, how difficult is it to change later? If I can't afford a steam oven now, but will want one in the future, how do I plan for it now? Understand what you need and can afford, what you can live without and what's on your splurge list.

Don't get into trouble buying new trendy things because they may look really attractive. Many might not be in the market next year.

3. Range Hood

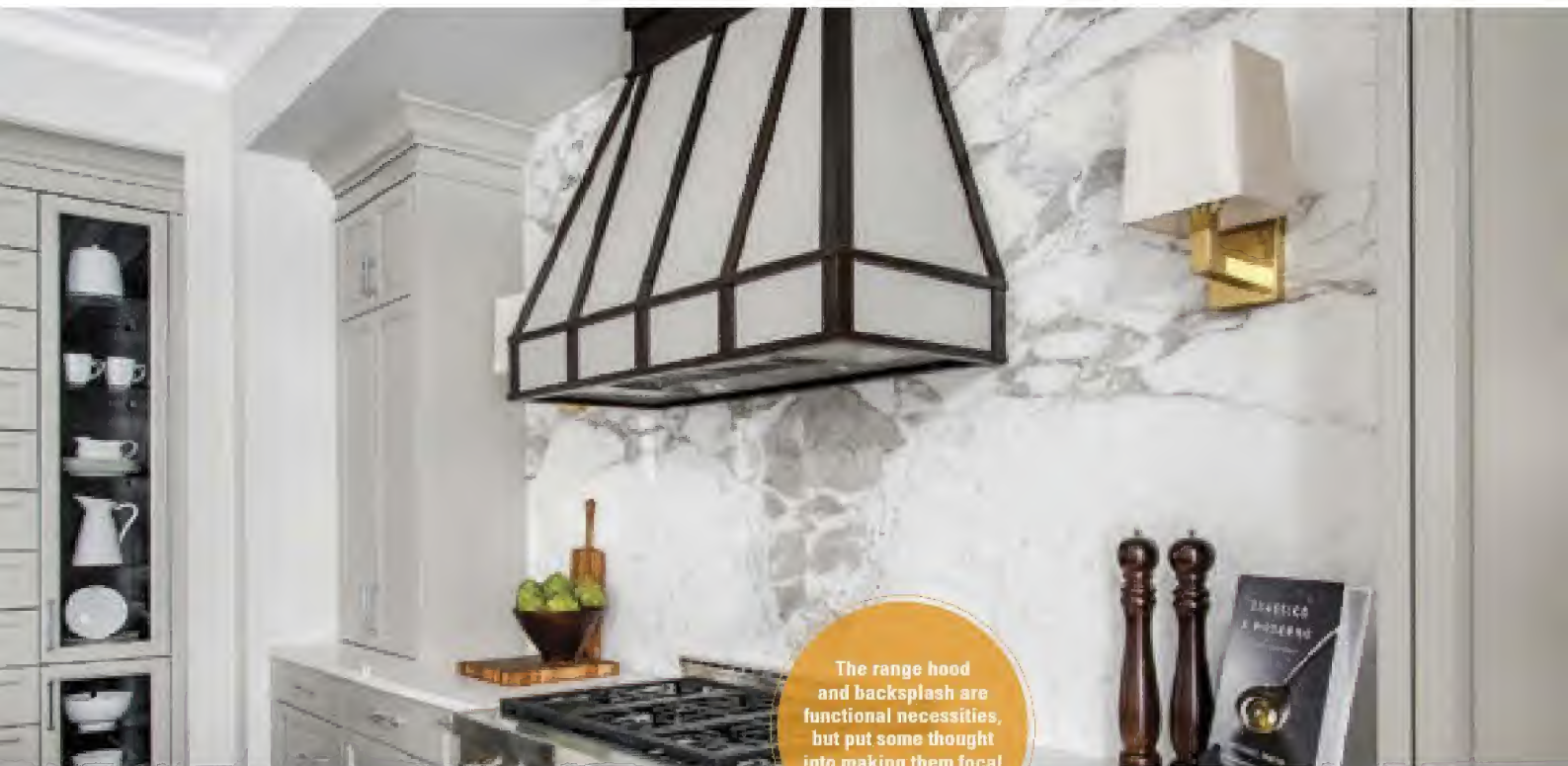
– Make it a Focal Point

Whether it's a chimney that vents outside or a char- ➤

Mix and match your countertops. They don't have to always be the same, but keep them complementary.



Photo: Conscious Studios



The range hood and backsplash are functional necessities, but put some thought into making them focal points for flair.



Photos: D&M Images

coal filter that recirculates air, the range hood is a design feature opportunity. It can be covered in stone or millwork, bell shaped or rectangular, gold and black, chrome and white, hammered copper, black marble. There are many possibilities to make it a real wow element.

4. Backsplash Tile – Don't Regret This Must-Have

The backsplash is a very underutilized tool, but it's easy to get carried away and end up with something just too much. A simple and inexpensive subway tile can have a lot more interest with some moulding, a chair rail or insert. If grout lines aren't

for you, go with a full slab of stone or glass.

It's all about your ultimate goal. Do you want something unique or simply a focal point that looks good?

5. Countertops – Be Creative, But Practical

You may love Carrara marble, but it's going to stain

and scratch. If you really want marble and you don't want to risk it with red wine, then use it as your backsplash, and maybe quartz for the working surface. Or if you have a raised eating bar, use your marble there. All surfaces don't have to be the same, as long as they are complementary.

People always give you wild



If grout lines behind the stove just aren't for you, consider a dramatic full slab of marble or travertine.

Photo: D&M Images

scenarios; you'll never be able to take a red hot pot out of the oven and put it directly on your granite countertop. You can't pull out a big butcher knife and start chopping away. Well, who does that anyway? You're building a kitchen, not a bomb shelter. There are nice cutting boards out there. Get some trivets!

Add subtle detail with the edging. There are many profiles to choose from. You can beef up the edge: a two-inch laminate looks great. It's not always about the most expensive materials.

6. Lighting

— So Much More Than Illumination

People tend to under ➤

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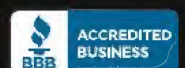




Photo: D&M Images



Photo: Conscious Studios



Photo: D&M Images

light kitchens. Dimmers are the easiest way to find balance. A million pot lights make your room look like it has ceiling acne or reminds people of a spaceship. Think about outlet placement. Make sure you're not stringing an orange extension cord across the floor.

Think about scale and proportion. You might have a nine-foot island; you only wired for three pendant lights and the ones you love are really big so there's only room for two. If you prefer simple and nondescript, then you might need five wired in.

Light bulbs come in different colour temperatures for different tasks and create different moods. If the lighting makes your gorgeous white kitchen look yellow, switch out for cooler bulbs.

7. Amp Up the Style

– Mixing Materials and Details

Hardware and lighting are the jewelry, so that's where you can add some bling. It's easy to get anxious; okay, I'm going to have a chrome faucet and gold hardware and black appliances and crystal knobs. Then you just start sweating because you can't decide what you like anymore. Not everyone is eclectic, but you almost have to look at your kitchen that way. If you have a chrome faucet, do you have to have chrome hardware? No. By mixing it up, different pieces can be phased in and out so you don't back yourself into a kitchen that becomes outdated.

Want some colour? Paint the inside of your glass cabinet doors, maybe bright blue. It's easy to change. Don't be afraid to display things. ➤

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8. Organization

– Make it Work

Do you work from home? Do your kids do their homework in the kitchen? Do you use cookbooks or are you digitally based? I'm a health nut so where do my blender and protein cups go? Where's my cell phone charging station? Mail slots are huge; build them in your cabinets for bills, fliers and coupons. Interior organizers are really well designed. Your kitchen may look fantastic on the outside, but great guts on the inside may save your life.

9. Splurge versus Save

– If You Can't Have it All, What Can You Have?

Are you not going to be able to sleep if you spent so

much on the fridge? You need to know where your boundaries are. If you think you can't afford the \$5,000 coffee maker but that's the thing you would really love about your new kitchen, why spend \$50,000 but not include the thing you're living for? Everyone has to compromise and decide what will make that dream come true.

10. Furniture

– Counter Stools Play a Role

So many possibilities. Stools could have arms, no arms, backs, no backs, upholstered or metal or wood. Sitting for long periods of time may require a higher-end upholstered option versus a stylish and uncomfortable frame.

Bonus Tip

– Finish with a Flourish

Don't lose passion and steam at the end! You've come



When it comes to lighting, think about your preferences in size and scale. Wire accordingly to fit the space.

Photo: D&M Images

this far, so don't give up and buy whatever happens to be on sale just to finish. If you don't love it or if you're uncertain, wait a bit. Give yourself some deadlines and get your kitchen functional. But also build in a

couple of little escape routes. If you simply can't decide on the backsplash, don't give in to pressure. Love your choices and you won't regret it. (H)

Karin Melberg Schwier

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ASHLEIGH MATTERN



ROCCO MASONS

A DYING ART REVIVED

Stone Carving Alive in Saskatoon

Stonemason Ryan Watson is part of a tradition that stretches back to the beginning of civilization. More than 12,000 years ago, people began building homes out of stone, a craft that is still alive and well today, if you can find an artisan. Ryan uses specialized tools to shape

rock into accurate geometric shapes, creating mouldings, fireplaces, memorials, garden

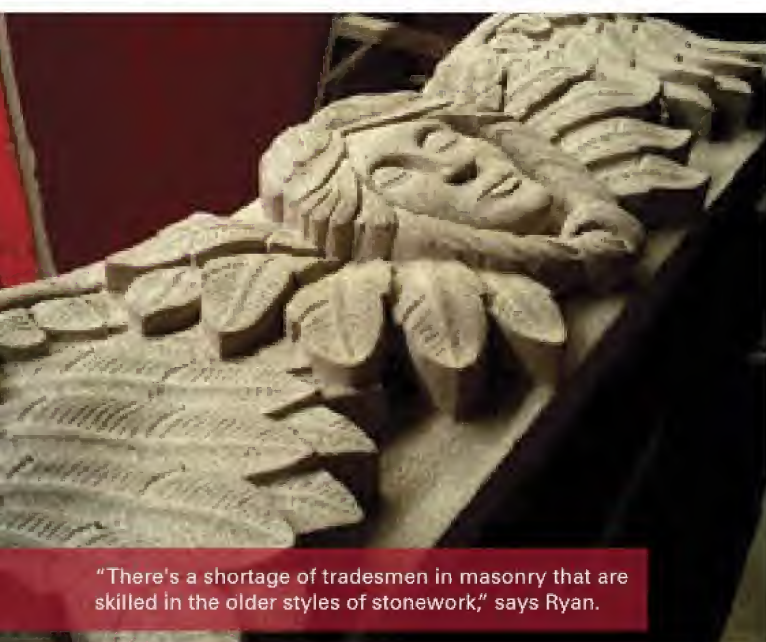
and landscaping pieces, keepsakes and more.

His work is probably familiar

"Geometry is a pretty accurate skill," Ryan says. "I could carve 10 of the exact same thing because I have the working drawings. You're working within a millimetre."

to many in Saskatoon. He helped to restore the iconic King George building in downtown Saskatoon. Passersby notice the delicate detail on the entryway; its leaves and careful curls are all hand-carved.

"It's definitely something that brings a lot of pride," Ryan says. "It's something ➤"



"There's a shortage of tradesmen in masonry that are skilled in the older styles of stonework," says Ryan.

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that's lasting. It's one of those things that doesn't necessarily go out of style. People travel to these old places like Montreal and Europe to see the old architecture, and at the root of it all, the main part of it, is the stone masonry and the carving

and the architectural details."

Ryan has a diploma in heritage and traditional masonry, a study geared toward the restoration of mass masonry structures, buildings made entirely out of stone. He worked in Chicago with Walter Arnold,

one of the most well known architectural stone carvers in North America, re-carving art deco panels on the Chicago Board of Trade Building, a U.S. National Historic Landmark.

"Working in Chicago was where I learned how to stream-

line a carving shop and make it as productive as possible."

Today, he and his wife and business partner Nicolene Watson run Rocco Masons in Saskatoon, creating pieces for homeowners, and working on notable projects such as the

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King George restoration and Timber Pointe on Queen Street.

An Art in Danger of Disappearing

Despite its long history, stone carving has become an obscure trade. A lot of people think the work Ryan does is

poured cement, Nicolene says.

"They don't realize Ryan's work is done by hand with the traditional tools. We deal with the real carving and the old masonry techniques."

Stonework is most often seen on buildings constructed

before the Depression. After the Depression, the trends in architecture shifted, and different building materials were introduced.

"You can build a sky scraper a lot quicker out of steel than you can stone by stone," Ryan

says. "In the '20s you'd go to a city like Chicago and there would be thousands of stone carvers. Now there would be a handful."

Today, people have an appreciation for that style of architecture, but there are ➤

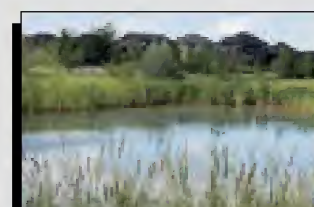


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Kensington is located in Saskatoon's Northwest within the Blairmore sector. You'll always be able to call Kensington home, even when your housing requirements change. There are apartment-style condominiums, townhouses, single-family homes on cul-de-sacs or traditional lots with rear lanes, and upper-story apartments located above a shop or office in the Village Square.



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fewer people who have the skills to do the work. In addition to the physical handiwork required, this trade requires a strong knowledge of geometry and mathematics, allowing the stonemason to move the design from paper to stone.

"Geometry is a pretty accurate skill," Ryan says. "I could carve 10 of the exact same thing because I have the working drawings. You're working within a millimetre."

With so few working stone carvers the decision to include

hand carved architectural detail in any design comes down to an appreciation for the craft. More than an architectural detail, it means purchasing a work of art when one of these pieces is added to a home.

"There are ways you can use

traditional techniques and not blow somebody's budget, if you know what you're doing," Ryan says.

Keeping History Alive

Ryan plays a creative role in designing the facades on



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Buildings constructed before the 1930s have the opportunity to be restored rather than demolished. A stunning example is the work done to the King George in downtown Saskatoon.



buildings and the details added to homes. He will consult with the owner to get an idea of what they're looking for, and do his best to incorporate those ideas. But he has a lot of creative leeway.

"It would be a similar

process to sitting down with an architect and discussing what architectural styles you like, and the scope of the budget," Ryan says.

Recently, he had a chance to work with clients creating a stone coat of arms to be


COAT OF ARMS: A HISTORIC TRADITION

First used as insignia on shields starting in the 11th century, and later used as a flag for families in higher social classes, today the coat of arms is a way to display family heritage.

Conventional elements of a coat of arms include:

- **Mottos:** To summarize the motivation or intention of an individual or family.
- **Crest:** The symbol or device at the top of the helmet.
- **Wreath:** A twisted roll of fabric laid at the base of the crest.
- **Helmet:** Situated above the shield and bears the wreath and crest.
- **Mantling:** Drapery tied to the helmet above the shield to form a backdrop.
- **Coronet:** A crown that shows the rank of a noble.
- **Field:** Background composed of one or more colours, metals or furs.
- **Charges:** An emblem occupying the field of a shield.
- **Supporters:** Figures usually placed on either side of the shield and depicted holding it aloft.
- **Order:** A visible honour awarded to a recipient, typically in recognition of individual merits.

mounted on their fireplace. Ryan helped to design the coat of arms, drawing from history on both sides of the family to create the piece, first on paper and then in stone.

"We're using the most modern tools available to promote the oldest trade," Ryan says. 

Ashleigh Mattern




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Co-housing Comes to Saskatoon



ASHLEIGH MATTERN



WOLF WILLOW RESIDENTS

When Sylvie Francoeur and her husband Cliff Shockey moved from the farm to the city, they were looking for a sense of community.

"When I was by myself on the farm with my husband, evenings could be very long," she says. "People need people, and I need people around me."

They found what they were looking for in Wolf Willow, a seniors co-housing development in Riversdale. Today, Sylvie says she's as close to the people who live on her floor as she is with her own children.

The concept of co-housing originated in Denmark. A collection of private homes

supplemented by shared facilities, the community is planned, owned, and managed by the residents. Co-housing is not to be mistaken as a housing co-operative, where the homes are rented by the people living there. At Wolf Willow the residents own their own condos as well as the land they're on,

including an equal percentage of the common space.

"We're responsible for minor repairs and for maintenance ourselves," Sylvie explains. "We work through committees, so we do have a lot of meetings, but we also have a group of older adults who all have a lot of experi- ➤



In a housing collective, the houses are owned, unlike a housing co-op in which the houses are rented.



The name 'Wolf Willow' was chosen by the original group of seven homeowners as homage to the shrub that grows throughout Saskatoon. It's known for its longevity and strength, and the homeowners hoped the idea of co-housing would also spread and endure.

ence and have had a life of working together, struggling together, so it's become a very easy place to live. Everybody living here really wants to be here."

How to Build a Community

Wolf Willow started to come together in January 2008, when a group of people met for the first time to discuss the possibility of creating the first co-housing development in Saskatchewan. Over 18 months, they made difficult decisions about the complex,

including whether to be an inter-generational community, or one designed for seniors.

By October 2009, the major decisions had been made, and seven shareholders purchased the land, formed a numbered company and hired a project manager and an architect. The group advertised with information meetings, pamphlets, articles and newspaper ads to spread the word about the development and explain what co-housing is. Eventually 19 shareholders signed on.

The shareholders worked



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with their project manager and architect to draw up their plans then hired a construction company once the plans were drawn up to meet their eco-friendly goals and financial responsibilities. The 19 shareholders moved in September 2012, with two condos vacant at the time, which have since been sold.

It's not necessary to be a shareholder to buy a condo. In fact, it wouldn't have benefited the new tenants to become shareholders because it was the original shareholders who shouldered the loans and the mortgage.

The original 19 are still shareholders now, but they're hoping this year to shut down the company they formed to build the development, and then operate WolfWillow like any other condominium, with the whole association overseeing the decisions.

A Healthy Way to Live

There are 21 units; seven per floor over three residential floors. The building is shaped in a U around the land area, giving each hallway a full wall of windows that looks out over the quiet residential areas of Riversdale and King George.

The building has energy efficient windows, and environmentally friendly materials were used in its construction. It's also ready for alternative energy like wind or solar, but after a lengthy discussion, the group decided to pass on buying the technology up front, instead making plans to add it at a later date.

All of the apartments are mostly wheelchair accessible throughout, with doors wide enough and the bathrooms spacious enough for maneuvering. The showers and tubs in the condos aren't accessible, but there is a fully ➤



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The co-housing group acts like a collective, making decisions by coming to a consensus as a group. Everyone at Wolf Willow is 55 or older.

accessible shower on the main floor.

Each resident has their own fully equipped apartment, but they also share spaces on the main floor, including a garden, workshop, craft room, large kitchen and exercise room

with a sauna. "Having dinner with friends on the deck, walking our dogs on the river trails, feeling the comfort of neighbours who look out for you—to us is proof that we've found the perfect place to call home," says Sylvie.

An Inspiring Trend

Hundreds of co-housing communities have been built in Europe and the United States since the first ones were recorded in Denmark in the 1960s, but so far only about 10 have been completed in

Canada. There is interest in this idea, though. At least 16 more communities are in the process of forming or under development in Canada, including two more in Saskatchewan.

Radiance in Saskatoon and Prairie Spruce in Regina are

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"If you don't like to take part in all the activities, you can do what you want. You can stay at home, but it is nice to have that sense of community," Sylvie says. "I love what's happening to Riversdale," says the Wolf Willow owner.



two new inter-generational co-housing developments both working toward a spring construction start. Wolf Willow community members have met with both the Radiance and Prairie Spruce teams to give them advice and guidance in

getting a co-housing project off the ground.

Of course, co-housing isn't for everybody. At Wolf Willow, a few of the original tenants have moved away, in one case to move closer to family, but in another because the arrange-

ments didn't work out for them.

For Sylvie and Cliff, though, it's exactly what they needed.

"We left a big house and a big farm to come in to a little place, but we have a beautiful condo, great friends and so many opportunities to work on

our different talents and learn from different people around you," Sylvie says. "It's been quite a growing experience for me." 

Ashleigh Mattern



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Every item in Jim Hodges' home has a story to tell. From The Chieftains poster, to old family photographs, to the art created by close friends and the vintage furniture, his space is brimming with character and personality at every turn.

"You could say my house

and my yard are my canvas," he says.

There are things you can tell about Jim just by wandering through his home. His interest in the arts is the most apparent, and his appreciation encompasses music, painting, illustration, sculp-

ture, theatre and dance.

Jim has made his living as an impresario since the '80s—bringing musical acts, theatre and dance performances to Saskatoon, and managing the marketing and publicity for each show. After every production, he frames the promotional

poster as a keepsake. Prints from *The Merry Widow*, a Karen Kain performance and 25th Street Theatre's national tour of *Paper Wheat* are just a few of many that grace his walls.

"It's a story about my life, moving through time and creating a visual memory,"



Wabi-sabi aficionado Jim Hodges.



says Jim. "It's not just my memory; it's a memory that includes other people. I can express other people I've worked with through that particular memory."

As a "third-generation person of homesteading stock," Jim grew up on a farm near

Lanigan. "The land we lived on was part of my grandfather's farm estate. By the time I came around, a lot of the old machinery and the old buildings had been there from the time my mother was young." He recalls being captivated by the history of the time- ➤

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worn items he grew up around. "I always had this imagination that went with all these things: the big threshing machines, the tractors, the blacksmith shop... the old buildings and the stories and secrets they held."

He moved from the farm

to Saskatoon to attend high school. "When I left the farm, I left. There was nothing about it I wanted to be." He recalls the excitement of moving into a modern house with contemporary conveniences. "I gravitated towards what was new and fresh."

But once settled into the first home he could truly call his own, he noticed his tastes begin to change. "I didn't put a title on it, I didn't try to establish what is was. It was the counterculture era in the '60s and '70s and many of us lived in a frugal kind of way...

I never moved away from that, I moved further into it."

Discovering Wabi-Sabi

Several years ago, *UTNE Reader*, a magazine he had never heard of before, started appearing in Jim's mailbox on a regular basis. One particular

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issue featured an article on the Japanese concept of wabi-sabi. "After I finished reading it, I just sat there and thought, 'I've just discovered who I am.'"

Robyn Griggs Lawrence, author of *The Wabi-Sabi House*, writes, "Simply put, wabi-sabi is the marriage of

the Japanese 'wabi,' meaning humble, and 'sabi,' which connotes beauty in the natural progression of time. Together, the phrase invites us to set aside our pursuit of perfection and learn to appreciate the simple, unaffected beauty of things as they are."

Jim describes the moment everything clicked. "I said, 'That's a part of me,' as it depicted the process of time, the process of aging and the appreciation of the imperfect"

Later, Jim was relaying his discovery to his friend Rick Olmstead. He told Rick about

his connection with wabi-sabi and the inexplicable subscription to *UTNE*. "He said to me, 'Well, I gave you that magazine.'" A few weeks later, Rick visited Jim bearing another gift: a copy of *The Wabi-Sabi House*.

"I had already estab- ➤

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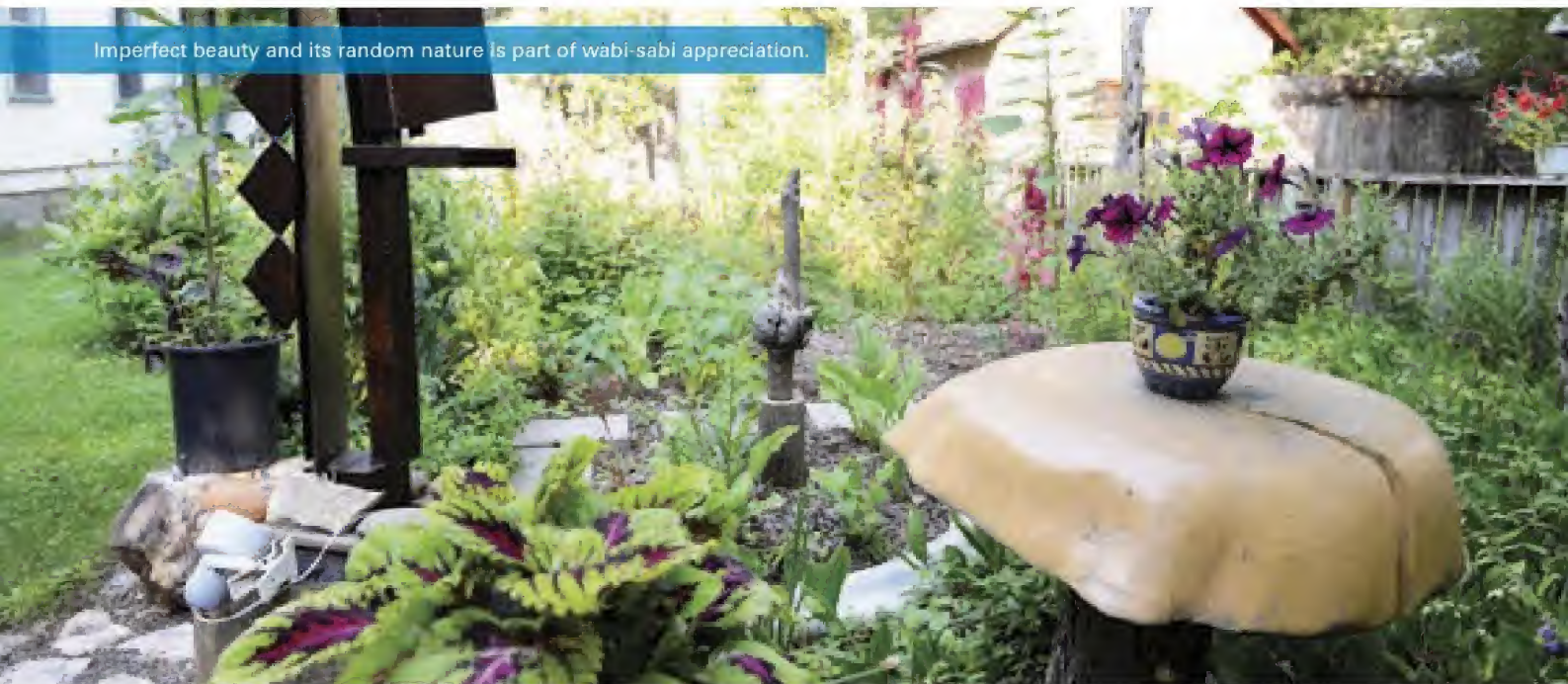
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Imperfect beauty and its random nature is part of wabi-sabi appreciation.



lished the motif. This was a life-long effort," Jim says. "Being stimulated, just like I was as a young boy, with what was old, what was used, what it meant in its aging process. I was always fascinated by that. So I incorporated it into my life when I had the canvas to do it on."

Jim is careful to explain that he's viewing a Japanese concept through a Western lens. "It's not that I'm the Zen or the wabi-sabi master," he says with a laugh. "Far from it. It's simply that I found myself in a wabi-sabi concept. I inherited it through how I was brought up, what I appreciated when I was growing up and what I viewed as important. I'm not trying to redefine it. All I'm saying is that my consciousness seems to be aligned with the wabi-sabi concept, even though I'm an avid fan of the contemporary arts."

Wabi-Sabi Outdoors

As a concept that embraces the natural cycle of growth and decay, it's fitting that Jim's front yard acts as an art place-


ment for an aging sculpture by his friend, Patricia Leguen. "Over time it's been pushed over, it's deteriorated, one of the legs is broken on the bottom, so it could probably use some repair but it sort of fits in with the wabi-sabi concept," says Jim. "It has a natural deterioration... why worry about that?"

More of the wabi-sabi aesthetic can found in Jim's backyard. He explains how he purchased a flowering plant, believing it was an annual. It turned out to be a perennial, which seeded itself and spread throughout his garden. "I had about a dozen plants that grew. It's incredible. There's a spontaneity... moving away from the perfection aspect of gardening, or only letting things grow that you've planted and taking everything else out," he says, adding that the garden, inlaid with sculpture pieces, has "an imperfect beauty, a randomness and a life of its own."

Jim says he and others feel an overall sense of harmony in his home. Great friendships, cultural experiences and his

fulfilling career are reflected in the items that adorn his space.

"Your home is your refuge. You can go out and experience the world from there, but you

always have a place to come home to. That's what I found here." 

Julie Barnes

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GROWING GRAPES IN YOUR BACKYARD

Tips for Success



 **JULIE BARNES**

Lyndon Penner asks me where I think Canada's largest grapevine is located. My guess is southern British Columbia, considering the short, mild winters.

I'm wrong.

What's believed to be our country's largest grapevine can be found in the Crowsnest

Pass in southern Alberta. "The grapevine has a trunk that's probably eight to 10 inches in diameter. It's ridiculous," says Lyndon, a well-known prairie gardener and landscape designer.

The grapevine covers approximately 2,200 square feet at a garden centre. "They have to

call in extra help every year to pick 500 pounds of grapes because they all ripen at once."

Perhaps you're not prepared to pick 500 pounds of juicy fruit every summer, but would still like to gauge your green thumb by growing your own grapevines. Although they may conjure images of Mediter-

ranean climes, there are a few varieties that work well in prairie gardens.

Beta and Valiant

"If you go to a garden centre this spring and say, 'Sell me a grapevine; I live in zone two,' they'll sell you either Beta or Valiant," says Lyndon.

Even a couple of vines will produce enough fruit for a plentiful harvest. Follow the Certo Concord grape jelly recipe for locally grown Valiants.



Photos: Karin Melberg Schwier

Both varieties are hybrids bearing blue grapes. They're easy to find at garden centres, but are known to sell out quickly, so it's best to purchase them in early spring. "If you're buying them as potted stock from a nursery, you can pretty much plant them anytime between the ground thawing out in spring and the ground freezing again in October," he says. "Grapes are sometimes slow to establish, so it's to your advantage to have as long a start as possible."

Versatile Uses

"They make incredibly good wine. They make a very, very good grape jelly," Lyndon says. "They are tart, but not unpleasantly tart." A friend of his uses the leaves from her own vine to make dolmas (a dish made of rice-stuffed grape leaves).

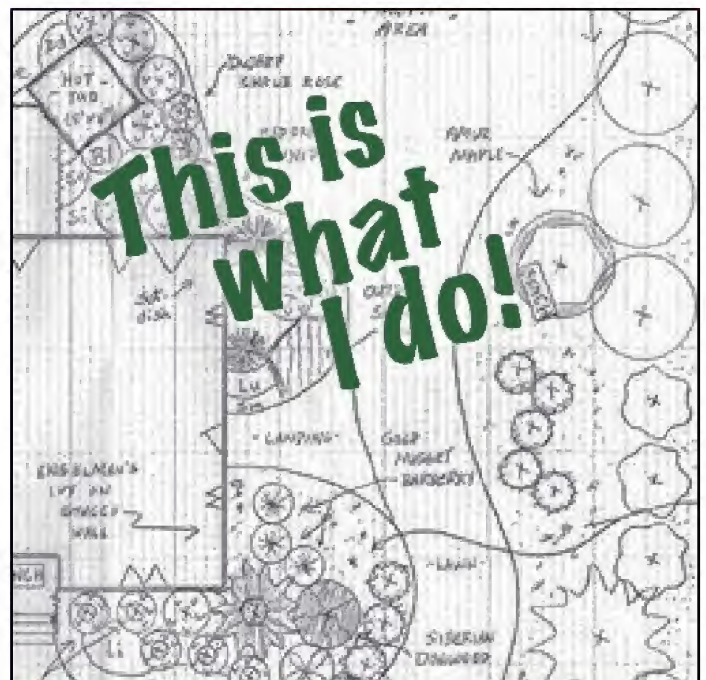
Lyndon encourages his clients to think beyond the fruit.

"Grapes are really good for creating shade. Yes, it can be great in the kitchen. But what are you going to use a grapevine for? If you have an arbour, a trellis or gazebo, grapes look really tropical and provide a bit of a Mediterranean feel."

Sun, Soil & H₂O

In the wine-growing regions of the world, you'll find vineyards on south or west-facing exposures because grapes thrive in the sun. "If you have a south-facing wall where heat reflects, that's really good. Plant them in as sunny a spot as possible, because if you want fruit on your grapevines, the sun is how it's done," says Lyndon.

In rich soil, grapevines will grow quickly, but the fruit will suffer. "Give your grapes more of a leaner diet. Don't pamper them," he says. "I like to mix in a good bag or two of ➤



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Rick and Val Breakenridge with Canada's largest grapevine at their SpringBreak Flower Farm in Alberta's Crowsnest Pass.



Photos: Lyndon Perner

compost if I'm planting one, and sometimes a good top dressing of compost or well-rotted manure every other year or so—that's lots. You don't need to go nuts on nutrients because you'll get foliage at the expense of the fruit."

Lyndon says grapevines need a fair bit of water, and if the moisture levels significantly fluctuate it will affect the flavour and quality of the fruit. Once established, vines are drought resistant, but the fruit will suffer without water. He tells his clients to give their vines a deep soak once or twice a week if it hasn't rained and it's been hot outside.

Pruning

"If you were to Google 'how to prune a grapevine,' you will find 75 different ways of going about it," says Lyndon. With the caveat that he's not an arborist, he shares his personal approach.

"I don't let them do whatever they want. I prune them to a good, strong framework from the time they're small so that they're shapely and aren't just sort of like Medusa's head going everywhere. I tidy them up a bit every other year because they will get very dense and woody with time." Pruning in spring or fall after

the vines are fully dormant is fine.

Pests

Deer will destroy grapevines, as will mice and voles. On the plus side, they're mostly disease free and insects don't eat them.

"Birds love them," says Lyndon. "Any of your songbirds that eat fruit—cedar waxwings in particular—are very attracted to them. Usually it's not an issue because there's more than enough fruit." Birds won't destroy the vines, so if you're willing to share the fruits of your labours, grapevines are a great way to attract birds to your yard.

Space Considerations

Lyndon's last tip is to consider if you truly have space for a grapevine. "They take up more space than people realize," he says. When people tell him they'll just prune their vines back, he has a pithy response ready.

"You will not thwart 40 million years of evolution because you own a pair of pruning shears. If you don't have room for it, really—don't plant one." 🍷

Julie Barnes

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CRAIG SILLIPHANT



APPL PHOTO

HOME FOOD:

Kombucha Tea

In most of the Saskatoon HOME Food columns I write, I get the chance to learn how to make and then sample some amazing dishes, from homemade perogies to rich, wonderful masala. When I see the jar of kombucha tea in Shannon Richards' kitchen, I have to admit to being a bit

apprehensive. It looks like a jar of cloudy water and silt, with some sort of mushroom creature floating near the top.

"I call them my little alien babies," Shannon laughs. "That gross-looking floaty thing."

That floaty thing is called a scoby, which stands for 'symbiotic culture of bacteria

and yeast' and it's integral to making kombucha.

"That's really the magic ingredient," says Shannon.

Kombucha is a fermented, sweetened tea that has a slight, carbonation-like fizz to it. Sometimes known as mushroom tea, because of the look of the scoby, it's been around

for thousands of years. Its true origins are a mystery, though it's been found in countries from China to Germany.

Kombucha has also been praised the world over for its restorative health properties. Some proponents claim that it treats a variety of illnesses, from bigger offenders like



Proponents of kombucha say it aids in digestion and has healing powers.

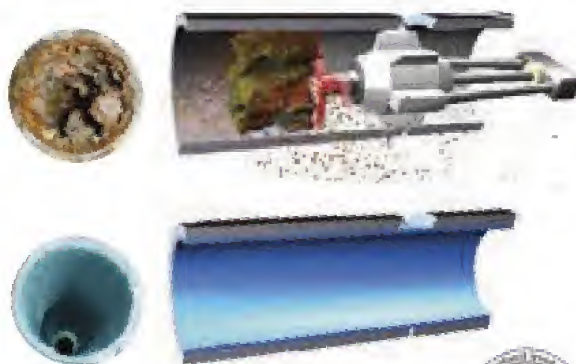
AIDS, cancer and diabetes to working like herb shop remedies for reversing grey hair, something I can definitely use. And much like the yogurt commercials you see on TV, kombucha, being a probiotic beverage, is also thought to also aid in digestion and stomach health.

"For starters, I think it tastes great," says Shannon. "But I also have a lot of digestive issues. I have ulcerative colitis. My process with all of this started when I was just trying to find different things I could eat that would help reduce inflammation and ease digestion." ➤

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Shannon calls the symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (scoby) her "little alien babies."



While kombucha has helped Shannon with her stomach issues, this little tea has seen its share of detractors and controversy. Some are quick to point out that there is no scientific evidence to support

the health claims, especially in regards to the more serious illnesses. There have, however, been reports about adverse effects like infections and allergic reactions, since home brewing can mean that mould

and contamination are factors.

All that said, the risks seem low for healthy people who choose to imbibe small quantities a couple of times a week. And the best part? It's easy to make, only pennies a glass.

"When I learned how easy it was to make kombucha," says Shannon, "I thought, well geez, I could spend five dollars a bottle to buy it at the store, or 12 cents [to make my own]."

To make your own kombucha, start with a quarter cup of white sugar and add two to three cups of boiling water.

"It's recommended that you use filtered water," explains Shannon. "Non-chlorinated water and all that. But I just use tap water."

Once the sugar is dissolved, you drop a few bags of tea into the mixture. Shannon says she usually uses green organic tea, but that you can use pretty much anything—whatever you prefer. She notes that green and black teas tend to work

best. Once the tea is steeped, you remove the bags.

Next, you need to add in a 'starter tea,' usually from the last batch of kombucha. This has the effect of making the liquid more acidic, which prevents unfriendly bacteria from forming in the first few days of fermentation. Once the mixture has cooled, it's time to throw in your scoby. And lastly, you use a paper towel or some other breathable cover like a coffee filter (with an elastic to bind it) over the top of the container to make sure flies don't get in.

You can leave the mixture to ferment for a week or more, depending on how sweet you like your kombucha. The longer you go, the less sweet the tea becomes, because the scoby feeds on the sugar.

"The process takes about a week," says Shannon. "You can taste it as you go. Some people like it sweeter, some like it more to the vinegar side."

During that week, you'll also see the formation of another

DIY KOMBUCHA TEA

1L glass jar	1/2 cup starter tea or distilled white vinegar
Active kombucha scoby	
2 tea bags or 1 1/2 tsp loose tea	2-3 cups water (ideally unfluoridated and unchlorinated)
1/4 cup white sugar	

Boil water, then combine with sugar in your glass jar, until the sugar dissolves. Place the tea bags in the sugar water to steep. Let the liquid cool completely (this may take several hours). Add starter tea from a previous batch of kombucha (or distilled white vinegar) and the active scoby. Cover the jar with a paper towel and secure with a rubber band. Allow the mixture to sit undisturbed for 7-10 days, or to taste.

Pour kombucha off the top of the jar for consuming. Retain the mother and new baby scoby and enough liquid from the bottom of the jar to use as starter tea for the next batch. The finished kombucha can be flavoured and bottled, if desired, or enjoyed plain.



Adding ginger and turmeric gives kombucha a more exotic flavour.

alien baby. Every time you make a batch of kombucha, the scoby creates offspring. The 'mother' is the original scoby you put in, but over the week it will create a 'baby.' Because it feeds off the sugar, the yeast grows and it breeds.

"When it's done, I have the two scobies, so I can start another batch with one," explains Shannon. "The other one you can give away or discard."

Which leads to the question: where do you get your first scoby?

"You can buy dehydrated scobies from Dad's Nutrition or other health food stores," says Shannon. "But because you always get a second one, there's tons of people in the city that have extras. So you can jump on the Saskatoon Ferments Facebook page. I'm sure you can say, 'Hey, I want a scoby,' and 300 people will be like, 'Here! Please take them!'"

We sit down in Shannon's living room to try her premade batch of kombucha; in fact, she

serves me two different kinds. One is the original recipe and the second has had turmeric and ginger added to it. Though I'm still somewhat skeptical, I tentatively take a sip and find an interesting and refreshing taste.

The original batch tastes like tea, sure, but it also has the unmistakable push/pull of sweetness rubbing against a vinegary essence, as well as a bit of fizz. The turmeric and ginger version has more developed flavours, perhaps a more exotic taste. Shannon also mentions that if a batch doesn't come out tasting very good, you can also blend it into a smoothie. In this case, they taste great, especially the turmeric and ginger version. All that's left for me to do is sit back and wait to see if my grey hairs start reversing in colour. Fingers crossed. (H)

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HOMEtown Reflections

 JEFF O'BRIEN

THE EVOLUTION OF THE SASKATOON FORESTRY FARM



Ivy-covered front façade of superintendent's residence, September 1961.

Photo: Local History Room – Saskatoon Public Library – LH 9477)

The Forestry Farm has been a destination for Saskatoon people for generations. We've gone there to picnic on the wide lawns, to walk beneath the trees, to marvel at the Christmas lights and to visit the zoo. But it owes its existence to the need by prairie farms for shelterbelts to protect fields and farmsteads from the relentless prairie winds.

The first buildings at the station were completed in the fall of 1914, including the imposing Forestry Farm House, which served both as the residence for the Superintendent and his family as well as the administrative centre for the station. It had a spacious kitchen and pantry, with dining room, living room,

The Forestry Farm was designed to be a "model farm"—a living, working demonstration of good farm design and farming practices, and also as a way to show the aesthetic value of plants and especially trees in beautifying the prairie landscape.

Between 1916 until it closed in 1965, a total of 147 million trees—3 million a year—would be shipped from the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station to farmers across Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.

den, office and verandah, part of which was later enclosed to serve as a second den. On the second floor were five bedrooms and a bath, while the attic and basement were used only for storage. It ➤

Comparing frost damage, ca. 1940s.



Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives

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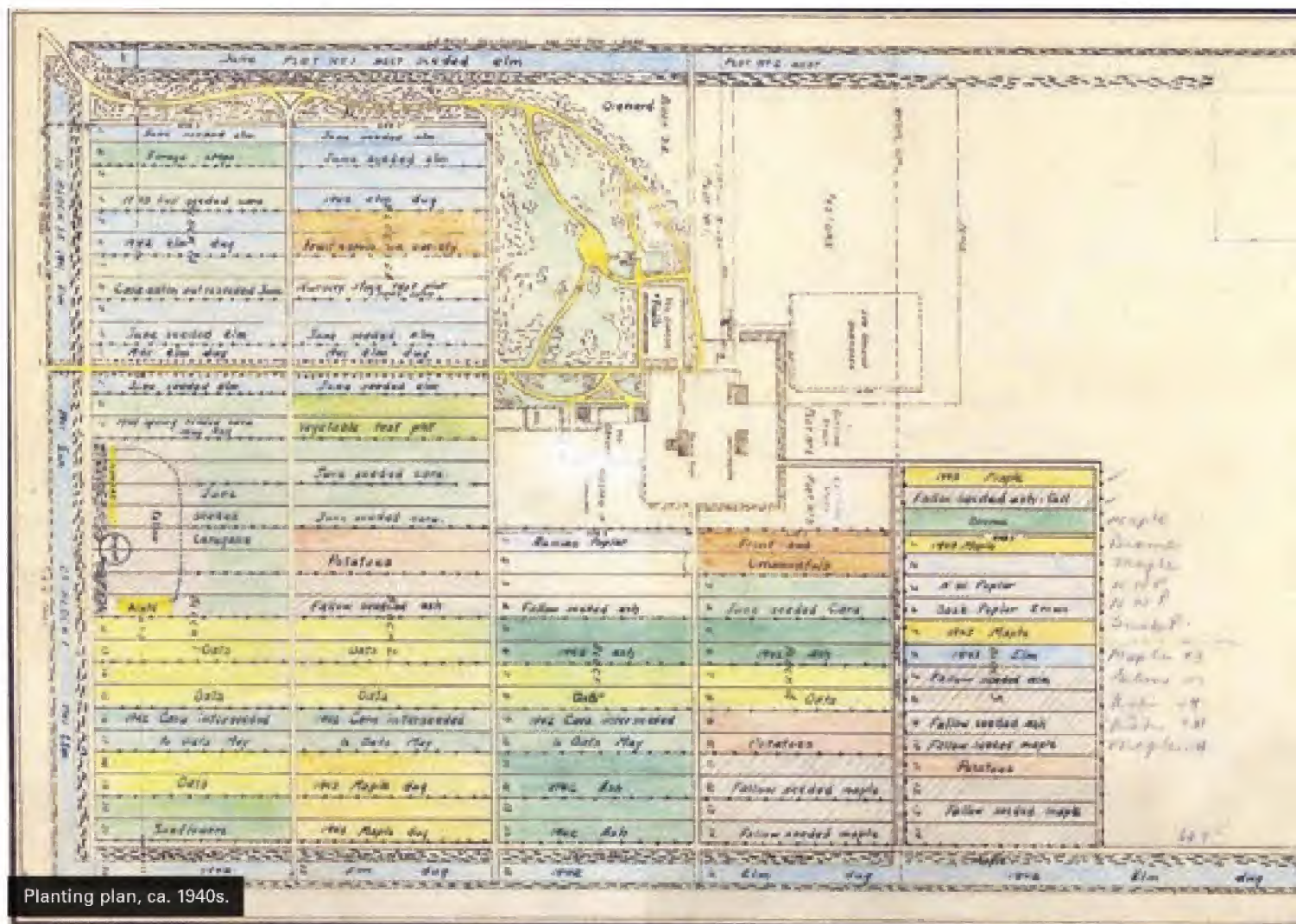


Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives





Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives

had two staircases—a narrow, back stairway that led up from the office and a wide, decorative front stairway with carved and polished bannisters.

One of the most visually striking aspects of the Forestry Farm House exterior was the vines which grew thick on all sides, giving it a marvelous old-world sensibility. From the verandah, all four corners of the Nursery Station were visible, and as the trees matured, the views became increasingly splendid, encompassing the wide south lawns, the winding drives and magnificent flower beds; a world of scent and colour surrounded this beautiful house.

Starting Up in 1916

The main drive and other roadways were laid out, ornamental plantings were put in around the house and shelterbelts were planted to protect the long, narrow plots of the nursery beds. Most importantly, the first plantings went in, 14 acres of ash and five of Russian poplar and willow, so that in 1916, the Forestry Farm

was able to ship out its first crop of seedlings. Two million trees went out to prairie farms that year.

Of all the trees grown at the Forestry Farm, the undisputed king of the shelterbelts was the caragana, a small, dense native of Siberia, which accounted for two-thirds of all the trees shipped from there. And little wonder, when one row of caraganas provided the same wind protection as several rows of other trees.

The Forestry Farm was also a research facility. Over the years, hundreds of different tree species and cultivars were tested for suitability to the harsh prairie environment. Factors like growth rates, drought tolerance and resistance to disease and insect infestation, and effectiveness as shelterbelt plantings, were all carefully evaluated. Fruit trees were also grown there, as were vegetable gardens, lawns and of course the much admired flowerbeds. But there was an educational side as well.

The Forestry Farm was designed to be a “model farm”—a living, working demonstration of good farm design and farming practices, and also as a way to show the aesthetic value of plants and especially trees in beautifying the prairie landscape. Moreover, they were always ready to share the fruits of their research, through tours and lectures, displays and demonstrations.

Introducing Animals

On top of it all, the Forestry Farm has always been a public space. By the 1930s, there could be as many as 3,000 visitors on a nice summer weekend. They came to stroll amidst the greenery, to admire the flowers and to picnic on the lawns. Starting in 1942, they also ➤



Agriculture Minister J.J. Greene officially hands the Forestry Farm over to the City of Saskatoon, June 3, 1966.

Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives

Forestry Farm Park and Zoo, 1990.



Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives

came to see the wild animals, beginning with a lady porcupine who wandered in one day (she gave birth shortly thereafter) and growing to include rabbits, deer, a raccoon and a bear. There was even an amorous coyote, lured there by the sultry smiles of a certain Golden Labrador. One of their pups actually went on to a film career in Hollywood.

The city had bought out the privately-owned Golden Gate Animal Farm, on 33rd Street, in 1965, and in 1972 it moved the animals to the Forestry Farm. This precursor to our modern-day zoo included dingoes, donkeys, ponies and even a pair of African lions. Significant improvements have been made to the zoo over the years, and today it covers nearly 30 hectares, with displays of nearly 300 different birds and animals. It is currently the only zoo in Saskatchewan accredited by the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA).

Superintendent's residence about 1930.



Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives


Changing of the Tides

In 1965, the tree nursery operations were all consolidated in Indian Head and the Sutherland Forest Nursery station closed. On April 6, 1966, the western part, along with all the buildings, was sold to the City of Saskatoon for one dollar.

After the Nursery Station closed, the Farm House stood largely empty and soon fell into a state of disrepair. It received heritage designation in 1990, and the site itself was recognized nationally for its heritage value. Despite this, it was a struggle to find a sustainable use for the building, and in 1996 it was threatened with demolition. Stung to action, heritage advocates formed a group called the Friends of the Forestry Farm House, and started on a renovation and restoration project which included nearly 5,000 hours of volunteer labour, along with help from construction

companies and a local architectural firm. This resulted in yet another round of heritage awards and recognition.

The house opened to the public in 2000 and included a small tearoom which, alas, closed a few years later. Today, the Forestry Farm House contains an interpretive centre focussed on the activities of the Nursery Station and its spacious rooms can be rented out for workshops and special occasion events.

The Forestry Farm Park and Zoo has been many things over the years, from nursery station to research facility to model farm. But most importantly, it is now, as it always has been, a place for people. 

Jeff O'Brien

(With information from Sara Williams' book *Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo—A Photographic History*.)

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Superintendent's Residence after restoration in 2000.



Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives

FAMILY AT HOME

Backyard Fireplace Much S'more Fun



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER



HEATHER FRITZ

Alana and Kimber McLennan don't have a cabin at the lake. They don't have a trailer. But celebrating the relatively brief Saskatchewan summer is a backyard family affair for the McLennans and their two children, Mya, 9, and Tate, 7. Their

DIY stone fireplace attracts people like, well, moths to a flame. And the glue that keeps this Forest Grove family and their friends together has a lot to do with that classic campfire treat: s'mores.

Whether it's an evening

barbeque, a party for adults, a sleepover for the kids or a family board game night, the fireplace lives up to its billing as the entertainment hub. With an affinity for sweet treats, the McLennans have become famous for interactive campfire

desserts. The classic s'more—short for 'something more'—is a toasted marshmallow and chocolate concoction pressed between two graham crackers. It's thought to be invented in the 1920s by Boy Scouts jone-
sing for some dessert as they



huddled around a campfire in the woods.

"There's something captivating about watching a fire, and who doesn't like s'mores?" Alana laughs. "And it's interactive. Instead of just serving family or guests a traditional

dessert, making your own s'mores becomes part of the whole evening's entertainment." And the traditional s'more is pretty old school these days. Now imagination's the limit (see sidebar for ideas and recipes).

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"My daughter and I like baking and decorating sweet treats," Alana says. "We put together s'mores trays, and a bar cart is a handy way to display all the ingredients. You can get really creative and people can get inventive. It

just makes it a lot more fun."

Celebrating Summertime

"There's no better way to celebrate summer than to come home after work or a day at Kinsmen Park, an outdoor pool or any ➤



A meaningful outdoor space for the McLennans includes stones from grandma Grossie's Frenchman Butte homestead.



one of our great festivals and spend time together with a barbeque followed by making s'mores," says Alana, regional sales director with Airline Hotels. "We spend all the time we can with our kids and we've created this space

that we all look forward to." An inviting back yard is a way to "get everyone outside for some fresh air and make use of the outdoor living area as a family."

Kimber's Rabbit Lake family purchased the bungalow when

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Kimber and his siblings were getting their post-secondary education. Kimber and Alana ended up with it. They love the corner lot and Kimber always wanted to develop the back yard.

He built a deck and a stone

patio went in for the barbeque. A pergola, trellises for Virginia creeper and a water feature were added, incorporating a natural stone slab and other rocks salvaged from Kimber's mother's Frenchman Butte homestead. With comfortable

patio furniture and room to lounge, board games occupy the family on many summer evenings and weekends.

Fireplace a Focus

But Kimber longed for an outdoor fireplace to add the

element of fire to family time. A DIY stone package "went together like Lego." The children are still young enough to enjoy the swings and playhouse, but the fireplace has become the main attraction for camping-like fun. ➤



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The centre of attention for family and friends of all ages, it draws people to the back yard throughout the summer.

"We're so glad we built it on the side of our deck. We captured the intimate setting we envisioned with comfy furniture arranged around it," says Alana. The fireplace adds a feature to her kitchen window view and "looks beautiful no matter what time of year."

Having an outdoor fireplace means you can enjoy the fun of camping complete with campfire treats, but the added urban twist means you have all the ingredients and supplies conveniently available steps away in your home kitchen.

"It's something we built that's not just for adults. The kids have their friends over for a movie and then a campfire. If we have friends over for dinner, we can all enjoy ➤

The outdoor fireplace gives the McLennans a chance to camp out right at home.



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KIMBER & ALANA'S TOP TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR FAMILY SPACE

- Composite materials for decks, railings, fences, sheds don't require staining. More expensive initially, they are easy to clean and require little to no maintenance.
- Yard development is often done in affordable stages. Draw up a plan and always consider electrical outlets (for lights & fountains), gas lines (for bbqs & heaters) and water lines for outdoor kitchens.
- There's nothing like fresh garden veggies, so even if it means a little work, your children will develop new skills and learn about science and nature from growing their own food. Plan for space on your deck for pots, too.
- Choose a variety of perennials that bloom at different stages throughout the growing season, and plan your annuals in hanging baskets to add pops of colour that will soften the hardscapes like a stone fireplace.
- Don't be afraid to bring the indoors out with you. Some accessories that work well and help create a fun space are mirrors, clocks, artwork, cushions, area rugs and colourful throws.
- Strings of outdoor LED lights woven through vines, around a pergola, hanging lanterns and fountain lights add elegance. Candles are a nice component and some help keep mosquitos away. All these touches make a cozy, inviting space for family and friends.

the fireplace and do s'mores for dessert. Adults like to make their own, too. It's more interactive and fun for everybody."

Bringing the Inside Out

Alana says her family treats the backyard area as an exten-

sion of their interior living space. As Mya and Tate get older, they're likely to bring friends over to hang out and as childhood accoutrements like the swing set give way to a hot tubs—a wish list item—there's even more reason to

celebrate summer at home. Alana is always looking for ways to make the space cozy and inviting.

"You can bring the inside outside," she says. "I bought a cool mirror at Home Sense and we hung it on the trellis

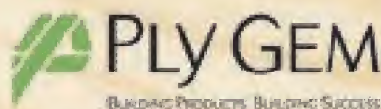
in the vines. We've thought of putting some drapes or sails to put up there for a bit of shade. We have small white lights strung around so it's pretty at nighttime, too." On winter holidays to places like Mexico, the family selects ➤

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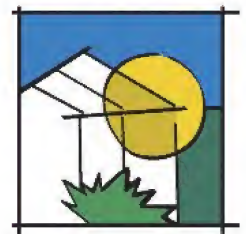
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"something special to include in our outdoor room so we can reminisce about our family winter adventures."

From June through September, the McLennan backyard space is probably the most used 'room' in the home with the fireplace as the focal point. The fire casts enough heat on cool evenings, and the smoke takes care of the mosquitoes.

"You really need to make the most of your outdoors during the season," says Alana. "An outdoor fireplace adds ambience all year round. During our wonderful summers, you can enjoy the feel of camping with that 'something more' right in your own back yard." 

Karin Melberg Schwier

S'MORE RECIPES GALORE

Sweet Corn S'More Quesadillas

Corn tortillas (2 per quesadilla for top and bottom)
Semi-sweet chocolate chips
Mini marshmallows
Graham cracker crumbs

Set tortillas over fire to grill on a rack, careful not to burn. Add chocolate chips, marshmallows and graham cracker crumbs. Tortillas will begin to puff up, add second tortilla on top, cook an additional minute. Slide onto serving plate. Cool slightly. Cut into sections or eat like an ice cream sandwich.

Campfire Cones

Waffle or sugar ice cream cones
Mini marshmallows
Semi-sweet chocolate chips
Graham cracker crumbs

Fill the cone with these and other ingredients you might like to try. Wrap filled cone in tinfoil and place on rack in the campfire to heat for a few minutes.

Monkey Banana Boats

1 ripe banana per serving (not too ripe)
Semi-sweet chocolate or butterscotch chips
Peanut butter
Mini marshmallows

Cut a length-wise slit in the banana peel on the inside curve. Don't cut all the way through.

Push the ends toward the centre a bit to open the slit, like a baked potato.

Add some peanut butter, chips, marshmallows, other tasty ingredients—caramel?

Wrap banana in foil and place over low coals or on a grate in the campfire. Heat well, unwrap carefully.

Grown Up S'More Shooters

For a mature take on campfire s'mores, do a search on the Internet for s'more shooters. Many recipes call for marshmallow vodka (who knew?) Bailey's, chocolate liqueur and a few other possibilities. And yes, you can top them off with a lightly toasted marshmallow. Or you can do a variation on those Campfire Cones and add some grown-up ingredients like Irish Cream or liqueur-filled chocolates.

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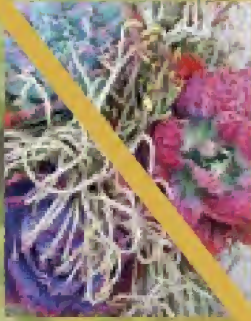


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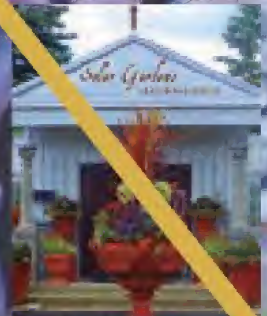
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